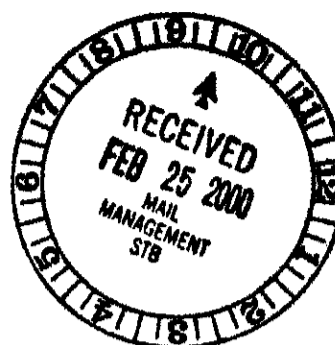




February 24, 2000

**Surface Transportation Board  
Office of the Secretary**

Case Control Unit  
Attn: STB Ex Parte No. 582  
1925 K Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C.  
20423-0001



**Attention: Mr. Vernon A. Williams, Secretary**

**Subject: Proposed CN-BNSF Combination**

**ENTERED  
Office of the Secretary  
FEB 25 2000  
Part of  
Public Record**

Dear Mr. Williams,

**Welland Pipe Ltd.** is a large diameter pipe producer supplying linepipe for major natural gas and oil transportation projects in Canada and the United States. As such we are major users of rail service in North America.

We would like to comment on the issues to be discussed on March 8<sup>th</sup>, 2000 in Ex Parte 582.

We encourage the establishment of relationships between carriers which will lead to a more seamless transportation conduit from our mills in Canada to our customers in the United States. As such we encourage the Surface Transportation Board to focus on whether the proposed CN-BNSF combination is good for shippers.

We anticipate improved service will result from well coordinated interchanges combined with single point contact for communication and administrative purposes.

We understand that the Surface Transportation Board has a comprehensive process to evaluate railroad transactions to protect the public interest. We ask that the CN-BNSF combination proposal be appropriately reviewed under those guidelines.

Should you require any further information or clarifications, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours very truly,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'E. G. Allan'.

E. G. Allan, P. Eng.  
Manager - Customer Services

**Welland Pipe Ltd.**

A Subsidiary of Stelco Inc.

615 Rusholme Road, P.O. Box 99, Welland, Ontario L3B 5P2 Tel. (905) 735-8338 Fax (905) 735-4387